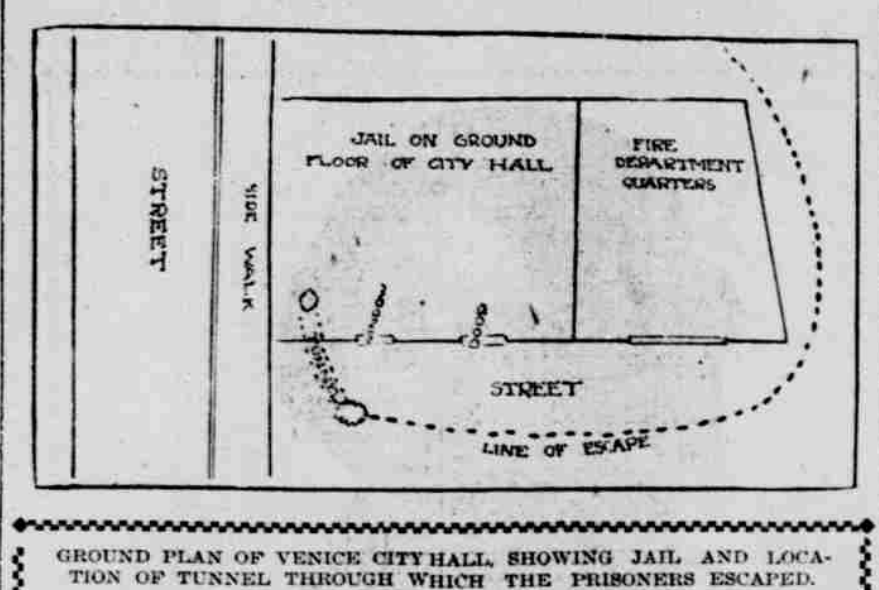


PRISONERS DIG A TUNNEL AND ESCAPE THROUGH IT.

Two Men Work Their Way Out of the Venice, Ill., Jail in a Daring Manner—Tools Are Supposed to Have Been Secreted in Bread and Pie.



Sam Johnson and Jake Krossack, two prisoners at the Venice, Ill., jail, escaped late yesterday afternoon through a tunnel which they dug under the wall of the building.

Three fellow-prisoners declined to go with them, and as soon as the fugitives got away they remained in the jail. They were afraid to attempt to prevent the delivery, as the missing men threatened them bodily harm.

A woman who came from St. Louis and who claimed to be Krossack's wife, visited him and gave him a loaf of bread and a pie Tuesday night, and it is thought that a chisel and a saw were concealed in the edibles.

Krossack was being held for burglary and Johnson on a charge of stealing chickens.

The men worked Tuesday night and nearly all day yesterday.

By daylight yesterday morning a tunnel had been completed under the wall of the jail. It only remained to burrow through the soil and out into the side street. The skill used by the men in striking just the right spot in the prison floor shows that they knew their business. One of them was probably a trained miner. Before dawn the cement was carefully picked up, bit by bit, and pounded back into position.

Breakfast was served at the usual hour, and after the meal the men were allowed to pass their time unperturbed. Krossack and Johnson renewed their labors immediately. Late in the afternoon, when the streets were deserted, they crawled through the tunnel to liberty, unobserved by the guards of the building and fled toward East St. Louis.

The police have been notified and are on the lookout for them.

RAILROAD NEWS FROM ALL POINTS.

The Vabash and Lackawanna, It Is Said, May Soon Be Consolidated.

NATIONAL PROTECTIVE BUREAU.

Meeting of Chairmen of Passenger Associations in Chicago—Manitoba Lines—Reading Dividend—Notes.

New York, Feb. 6.—The Commercial Advertiser today has the following:

"The prospect of a combination between the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad and the Vabash Railroad is being widely discussed in railroad and financial circles. The present activity of Vabash securities and the sharp advance in the price of the debenture 'B' bonds has revived the rumor that the Rockefeller family is buying control of the Vabash in the interest of the Lackawanna.

"The Rockefeller, as well as the Vanderbilts, are large holders of Lackawanna stock, and the present management of that road is desirous of securing a permanent Western connection.

"Persons identified with the Lackawanna system say that a combination of that road with the Vabash is inevitable."

BURLINGTON OFFICIALS.

Will Meet in St. Joseph, Mo., to Discuss Rate Situation.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 6.—A meeting of the head officials of the Burlington system will be held in this city to-morrow. General Manager W. Brown of Chicago arrived in the city to-day, and General Manager Howard Elliott of the Missouri lines will come here from St. Louis to-morrow morning, accompanied by General Passenger Agent L. W. Wakeley and General Freight Agent W. Brown. The meeting will be held to discuss rates and kindred matters. Some changes are to be made in the location of the offices here.

KANSAS CITY AND ATLANTIC.

Deeds of Foreclosure Granted in Federal Court at Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 6.—Judge Phillips, in the United States Circuit Court to-day, issued a decree of foreclosure and order of sale on the property of the Kansas City and Atlantic Railroad Company. The decree was granted on the petition of the Massachusetts Loan and Trust Company, which held a mortgage and deed of trust in the property of the Kansas City and Atlantic Railroad Company. The property was sold to the Kansas City and Atlantic Railroad Company, but after a foreclosure and sale the name of the corporation was removed from the title, and the property was sold to the W. E. Winner enterprises, projected during the boom days, thirteen years ago.

OF FOR OLD MEXICO.

The St. Louis delegation to join "Gates" thirty-day tour of Old Mexico left last night in a special drawing-room car via the Frisco line. The party is in charge of W. A. Traylor, southwestern passenger agent of the Frisco line, and will be accompanied by San Antonio, where it will meet a special train, carrying the main division from the East, which is routed via Chicago and Kansas City.

Second tour leaves via the Frisco line on February 23.

Among others from St. Louis in the party which left last night were: Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Noel and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Eddy, Doctor George A. Bronson and his mother, and Mr. and Mrs. James C. Moore.

Cleaver Leaf Turned Over.

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 6.—Samuel Hunt, receiver of the Toledo, St. Louis and Kansas City Railroad, was discharged from his duties by Judge Woods of the United States court to-day. The property of the road has been acquired by the Toledo, St. Louis and Western. The receiver turned over to the purchasing company \$200,000 in cash and accounts and the purchase assumed the receiver's liabilities, amounting to \$200,000.

Rock Island-Mexican Central.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 6.—The El Paso Mining and Rock Island received a message from New York this morning, announcing that the Rock Island will, as soon as its extension to this city is completed, assume control of the Mexican Central and operate the lines through from Chicago to Mexico City.

Personal and Current Notes.

The Cotton Belt route yesterday opened a new receiving depot at terminal headquarters at Ninth and Poplar streets.

The offices of the freight depot terminal were removed yesterday to Twelfth and Poplar streets.

W. C. Conner, commercial agent of the Frisco line at Dallas, was here yesterday.

D. B. Bower, assistant general passenger agent of the Chicago and Alton, who has been in Chicago, will return to headquarters to-day.

Charles Fitzgerald, traveling passenger agent of the Louisville and Nashville, was at local headquarters yesterday.

The meeting of the Transcontinental Passenger Association, which was to have been held in Chicago, has been postponed.

The Western Passenger Association will meet in Chicago to-day.

A conference of Southeastern and Southwestern representatives of freight traffic departments was held yesterday at headquarters in the Pullman building.

The Red River, Texas and Southwestern in the name of a new road which has been

incorporated at Austin, Tex. The capital stock is \$200,000 and the incorporators are capitalists from Missouri and Texas.

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